

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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SAFETY COMMISSION
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TO: The Commission
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THROUGH: Douglas L. Noble, Director, Office of Program Management and Budget

FRANK E. RESNIK

FROM: James F. Hoebel, Program Manager, Fire and Thermal Burns,
Office of Program Management and Budget

SUBJECT: National Estimates: 1986 Fire Losses
1985 Carbon Monoxide Deaths

The Directorate for Epidemiology has estimated the national scope of residential fire losses and non-fire carbon monoxide (CO) deaths associated with selected consumer products. Epidemiology's reports are attached.

During 1986, there were an estimated 581,500 residential fires serious enough to be reported to fire departments. Approximately 4,770 people died in these fires. These estimates are lower than corresponding estimates for 1985, and represent a 23 percent reduction in fires and a 13 percent reduction in deaths compared to 1980.

Cigarettes ignited the fires that caused the deaths of the most people; 45,500 fires that killed 1,400 individuals (29 percent of all residential fire deaths). The number of fire deaths associated with smoking declined 29 percent compared to 1980.

The two consumer products under the CPSC jurisdiction associated with the most fire deaths were upholstered furniture and mattresses/bedding. Furniture fires caused 1,070 deaths (a reduction of 24 percent since 1980) and mattress/bedding fires caused 790 deaths (a reduction of 19 percent since 1980). For both products, the most fire deaths by far were caused by fires ignited by cigarettes.

During 1985, an estimated 284 people died in non-fire related carbon monoxide incidents associated with residential appliances. Most of these (80 percent) involved gas fueled appliances. These estimates are not remarkably different from those from the earlier 1980's.

Attachments

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CPSC & IAHG Cleared

Products Identified

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Comments Processed

NOTE: This document has not been reviewed or accepted by the Commission.
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